

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 20681 231320Z POSS DUPE
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9025
INFO AMCONSUL BELFAST
AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

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E.O. LL652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, UK
SUBJECT: PRIVILEGES COMMITTEE REPORTS ON SPROAT AND
SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE ISSUES

SUMMARY: PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES ISSUED
REPORT DECEMBER 21 CONCLUDING THAT CONSERVATIVE MP IAN
SPROAT HAD NOT COMMITTED BREACH OF PRIVILEGES IN ALLEGA-
TIONS HE MADE NOVEMBER 18; SPROAT HAD CLAIMED AT LEAST
30 LABOR MPS HELD COMMUNIST, TROTSKYITE OR MARXIST
VIEWS. THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE, A LABOR RIGHT-
WING GROUP, HAD ALSO PUBLISHED NAMES OF LABOR MPS WHOSE
VIEWS WERE FOUND SYMPATHETIC WITH COMMUNISM. END
SUMMARY.

1. PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGES COMMITTEE ISSUED ITS REPORT
DECEMBER 21 AFTER INVESTIGATING CHARGES LEVIED AGAINST
CONSERVATIVE MP IAN SPROAT AND AGAINST THE SOCIAL DEMO-
CRATIC ALLIANCE. COMMITTEE DECIDED THAT NEITHER ACTION
CONSTITUTED BREACH OF PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERS OF THE
HOUSE BUT THAT MEMBERS COULD, IF THEY SO WISHED, TAKE
LEGAL ACTION.

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2. COMMITTEE IS RECOMMENDING, THEREFORE, THAT NO ACTION
BE TAKEN IN HOUSE OF COMMONS ON THE CHARGES RAISED.
PENAL POWERS OF PARLIAMENT, COMMITTEE CONCLUDED, SHOULD
BE EXERCISED ONLY WHEN OTHER LEGAL PROCEDURES DID NOT
EXIST.

3. COMMENT: SPROAT HAD BEEN INFORMED SOME TIME AGO THAT COMMITTEE WOULD NOT CHARGE HIM OR RECOMMEND PARLIAMENTARY CENSURE. HE NOW HOPES THAT MEMBERS HE NAMED IN HIS SPEECH WILL TAKE LEGAL ACTION BECAUSE HE BELIEVES HE CAN WIN A LEGAL CASE. HE HAS FURTHERMORE BEEN ASSURED BY MRS. THATCHER THAT THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY WILL ASSIST AND SUPPORT HIM FINANCIALLY SHOULD LEGAL COSTS BE INVOLVED.

4. HE CONTINUES TO BE JOSHED AND "THREATENED" BY SOME MPS THAT SUITS FOR FIFTY-THOUSAND-POUND DAMAGES WILL BE RAISED; TO DATE NONE HAS BEEN. HE CLAIMS HE HAS BEEN RECEIVING SEVERAL HUNDRED LETTERS DAILY, SUPPORTING (BY 9 TO 1) HIS CHARGES OF COMMUNIST INFILTRATION OF THE LABOR PARTY. SOME LETTERS ALLEGEDLY INCLUDE DETAILED INFORMATION WHICH HE IS UNABLE TO CORROBORATE BECAUSE OF LACK OF STAFF.

SPIERS

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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